

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Allowability

An **Examiner's Amendment** to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Todd E. North, on May 3, 2008.

Examiner's Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the following claims as follows:

1. In claim 21, please delete section (e) in lines 11-12 and insert instead --- administering to the cell line an inducer of the NF- κ B pathway, wherein the induction of the NF- κ B pathway is inhibitable by said ABIN consensus sequence protein, ---
2. In claim 23, please delete --- means for inducing activation --- and insert instead -- inducer---

Allowed Claims

Claims allowed are: 19-24.

Reasons for Allowance

The claimed invention is drawn to a method for screening compounds for their ability to activate or suppress ABIN dependent NF-kB inhibition. Applicants used the two-hybrid assay and co-immunoprecipitation assay to detect the interaction of A20 (compound) and ABIN. Further, Applicants are in possession of two novel proteins ABIN (SEQ ID NO:2) and ABIN2 (SEQ ID NO:6) that they have shown to bind A20 and found consensus SEQ ID NO:9. Moreover, Applicants localized the A20 binding domain to be in the C-terminal portion of the ABIN protein.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Agnes Rooke whose telephone number is 571-272-2055. The examiner can normally be reached at 6:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathleen Kerr Bragdon can be reached on 571-272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1656

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AR

/Karen Cochrane Carlson, Ph.D./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1656